

30 August 1972

CHEMICAL CATALYSIS

OSI

1. The proposed exchange program is aimed at solutions to certain environmental or ecological pollution problems which boil down to fundamental and applied aspects of catalytic oxidation. The basic problem could probably be handled best at the outset by an exchange of information both by mail and in person without the added expense of an exchange of personnel. Planning groups from the two countries together could develop complimentary research to supplement and extend the information exchange. A big unresolved problem would be catalysts considered proprietary by US companies. This could adversely affect the exchange in one of the most important areas, that of automotive exhausts.

2. The six subjects listed on the ~~proposals~~ proposed program proposal could serve very well as a mechanism for establishing a good relationship between scientists of the two countries and also possibly advance the state of the art in some of the proposed areas. However, little is to be gained to resolve specific environmental and ecological problems by the proposed exchange of personnel that could not result from information exchanges and meetings.

STATINTL

[REDACTED] /cch

OER

OSI has primary interest and therefore we defer to them. However, under topic one, the Soviets have a great deal to gain in petrochemical fuels. Topics two and six are the least objectionable. Topic four we do not care for too much. Would prefer that they not get into it, but no objection. Overall the Soviets will gain, but we feel the US companies will protect to a greater or lesser extent their proprietary information.

NEAB:cch

AF

STATINTL

No objection. Have interest. Consider it to be a meaningful exchange. Will individuals to be exchanged be discussed at the current talks?

STATINTL

[REDACTED] cch

*Passed to [REDACTED] 30 Aug 72*

*by to Ruth*